

## HENRY AND JANE ELLIS ALDER WATKINS



Henry Watkins, son of John Watkins and Harriet Steele Watkins, was born January 5, 1860, at Provo. Married Jane Ellis Alder January 6, 1885; solemnized in Salt Lake LDS Temple June 1, 1893. Died May 24, 1940, Midway.

Jane Ellis Alder Watkins, daughter of Elijah and Mary Jane Wilson Alder, was born November 19, 1861, at Farmington. Died March 21, 1941, Midway.

Henry Watkins was the oldest son of thirteen children born to John Watkins and Harriet Steele.

When he was five years old his father and mother moved from Provo and settled in the Lower Settlement at Snake Creek.

His father and three wives had thirty-three children and it was hard in those days to support them. At the age of fifteen Henry made his own way and supported himself.

He married Jane Ellis Alder, and was the father of four sons and daughters.

He was an Elder in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He was a

805

mason and carpenter, trades he inherited from his forefathers. He also owned a farm. He built his home on the east side of Midway and lived there until his death. He helped most of his children build their homes, and did much for the building of Midway. He built many homes, helped build the Midway First Ward church house, Second Ward meetinghouse in Heber City, worked on the old bank building, Wasatch High school and North School. He helped build the smoke stack to the furnace in the high school. He helped excavate the mill pond at Midway, built the old creamery by the Johnson's Milling Company, two school houses at Woodland and Francis. He helped survey many irrigation ditches and helped his father John Watkins survey the Midway Water Works. He helped in building two reservoirs up in the White Pines vicinity called the Island and Brimhall Lakes. He helped put in an assay furnace at the Silver King and Glencoe Mines in Park City, helped build the telephone office in Park City. He cut cord wood for the Ontario Mine used in the firing of boilers. He moved a saw mill boiler from Deer Creek to Mill Flat in Snake Creek, and when they were finished there, they moved it to the east side of Heber City to the South fork of the Provo River with ox teams. He ran a saw mill for two summers at the Mountain Lake Mine in Snake Creek Canyon. He took a large boiler from Mill Flat to Salt Lake City, with two yoke of cattle, to have it repaired as that was the only means of transportation.

He was a good neighbor and friend and neighbor to all who knew him and was very honest in all his dealings. He passed away at Midway, and was buried in the family plot.

Children of Henry and Jane Ellis Alder Watkins:

- Elijah H.;
  - Henry Morris, married Persie McKee;
  - Casy LeRoy, married Cecelia Murdock, later Ida Rasband;
  - Harriet Myrtle, married Earl M. Hardy, later Dan McMillan;
  - Alma Lamar, married Lula May Giles, later Miranda Smith;
  - Mary Jane, married Carl Bronson;
  - Orpha Vida, married Reuben Orson Casper;
  - Lucile, married Earl Daybell.
- Jane was born in Farmington and then

later moved with her family to Franklin, Idaho, and then to Kaysville, Davis County. They later moved to Midway.

At the age of 24 she married Henry Watkins, her childhood sweetheart, and during the next 56 years she raised four sons and four daughters to adulthood. She was always very active in public life. As a girl, she sang vocal solos in the old Bowery on the Midway Town Square. She was a Relief Society teacher for most of her married life, and worked in most of the auxiliary organizations of the church. She was a Primary teacher for many years.

She suffered many trials and hardships and worked very hard, for in those days they had none of the conveniences which we enjoy today. She was very kind, and loving, and charitable to everyone whom she knew. She would go to the bedside of neighbors and friends any hour of the day or night and help them in sickness or death.

She was a very good nurse, and delivered her own sister, Elizabeth, in childbirth, with no complications.

She was an excellent seamstress and made beautiful clothes for the dead. She washed and laid out many dead persons, because in those days morticians were seldom available. She also sewed for private customers.

She was very good to all her children, and she nursed each of her daughters and daughters-in-law when their babies were born. She had very poor health herself, but that didn't stop her from helping others. Before she died she said, "The road has been long and hard, but I have enjoyed every step of it."

## FREDERICK WM. AND SARAH JANE BOND GILES



Frederick William Giles and his wife, Sarah Jane Bond Giles, were born about the time Heber was settled, he in Provo on February 24, 1860, son of Frederick and Mary Ann Moulton Giles, and she in Heber on May 31, 1864, daughter of Jesse and Sarah Adams Bond.

Their parents joined the Church in England, crossed the plains in 1855-56, and are listed with the first settlers of Provo Valley. The first cabins were built close together for a protection from the Indians, in what was called the old fort. In a year

or two the people were allowed to move to their own lots. The Giles family built a two-room log house on Third North and First West, while the Bonds moved to Second North and Main Street.

Their childhood and youth were spent helping on the farm and in the home. As a mere boy, Frederick herded cows in the foothills north of Heber, known as the London hills. When he was older he helped with all the farm work. They put in many long, hard hours, as all the plowing, planting, cutting and reaping had to be done by hand, with only very crude, hand-made implements and equipment.

Being the eldest daughter, Sarah was obliged to help in the home. There was a large family of nine children and they had to knit all the stockings and make all the clothing by hand, most of which had to be done with a kerosene lamp at night for light. She had to carry ditch water for use in all things, drinking, cooking, and washing, until they found time to dig a well.

They both attended school in the first school houses built, which were of log, with rough benches for seats. They advanced by readers instead of grades and paid their own tuition for the first few years.

All meetings were held in the school houses. When the old hall was built on Main Street they used it for all their meetings, dances, theaters, etc. They both taught in the Sunday Schools held in that building and later on he was the secretary.

Sarah's father was made janitor of the old hall, so she had to help keep it clean and in order, which was hard work, as they had to heat and carry all the water from home. If a dance had been held on Saturday night, which was often the case, they had to work late into the night to get it ready for Sunday School the next morning.

Being active in the Church, Frederick was advanced from Deacon to High Priest in the priesthood, and held many positions in both the West and Third Wards. He was theological teacher in Sunday School, president of the YMMIA, and assistant in the Stake Sunday School superintendency. In October, 1894, he was chosen as one of the counselors to Bishop Thomas Hicken, and when the stake was divided into three wards he was made ward clerk on Febru-

363

364

FROM SPARKLEHILL UPON THE MOUNTAINS

ary 15, 1903. He was clerk but a short time when, on November 8, 1903, he was made first counselor to Bishop Frederick Crook, which position he held twenty-nine years. Most of the time he was in the bishopric he was the parents' or gospel doctrine class leader in Sunday School.

He spoke at numerous funerals and was called upon many, many times to help administer to the sick. During the 1880s and '90s he belonged to the Dramatic Club, which consisted of young men and women, who put on plays in all the surrounding towns and counties.

They were married in the Logan Temple on November 10, 1886, by Marriner W. Merrill. They made the trip by wagon. Two other Heber couples made the trip with them and were married at the same time. It required nine days, as they ran into a severe snowstorm on the way.

With the money he had saved by working for his uncle on the ranch north of town, and also hauling freight to Green-river, they were able to purchase some land. They started to raise cattle and built a house on Second West and Sixth South Streets. Their seven children were born there, except the oldest. Their names follow: Zella Giles Moulton, Alva Giles, Lula Mary Giles Watkins, Sara Winona Giles, Ida Lapriel Giles Walker, Mabel Inez Giles Turner, and Violet Elverda Giles Peal. They were able to send four of the children to the BYU and a daughter on a mission.

On January 26, 1908, he was called on a mission to Great Britain, leaving on February 12. He labored in the Grimsby and Hull Conferences, being president of the latter. He filled an honorable mission and returned home April 4, 1910. He was released from the bishopric while he was away for the two years, but resumed his duties upon his return.

In 1912 the bishopric planned and built the present Third Ward chapel.

Having been in poor health a number of years, Sarah passed away May 12, 1924. After her death, Frederick continued on alone for twelve more years, working in the bishopric until Bishop Crook was released in 1931. He remained active in the Church, teaching most of the time in the Sunday School until his death.

He was president of the Spring Creek Irrigation Co. for a number of years and retained that position to the last. On June 7, 1936, he met with an accident at his home and passed away the next day at the age of 76.